

Peres, Shevardnadze discuss Mideast

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, agreed after a meeting Wednesday to continue contacts to work out details of a proposed international Middle East conference. Mr. Peres told Israel Radio. Mr. Peres also said the Soviet Union changed its position on one aspect of the conference, but did not elaborate. Radio reporter Shlomo Schiffer said Moscow no longer insists on the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in peace talks. Mr. Peres and Mr. Shevardnadze met for nearly two hours at the Soviet mission to the United Nations in New York. Both leaders are in the United States to address the U.N. General Assembly. The Israeli leader said Mr. Shevardnadze presented the latest Soviet position on the proposed conference. "There are still differences of opinion," Mr. Peres said. "In one area, there was a change for the better."

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King sends good wishes to S. Arabia

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday sent a cable of good wishes to King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia congratulating him on the occasion of Saudi Arabia's National Day. In his cable the King wished King Fahd continuing good health and happiness and the Saudi people further progress and prosperity. The Saudi ambassador to Jordan hosted a reception on Wednesday to mark the occasion of National Day. It was attended by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and senior officials.

2 Israelis attacked

TEL AVIV (R) — Arabs stabbed two Israeli teenagers on Tuesday while they were hiking in fields outside a Tel Aviv suburb, the Israeli news agency Itim reported. It said both youths were slightly injured after the attack in the Ramat Hasharon suburb. The attackers fled after one of the boys escaped and ran to a main road, Itim said.

U.S. navy plane downs air force jet

NORFOLK, Virginia (AP) — A U.S. air force reconnaissance jet was accidentally shot down Tuesday by a navy F-14 fighter over the Mediterranean Sea during NATO exercises, but the two air force crewmen ejected safely, the navy said. The air force RF-4C jet was downed by an air-to-air missile fired by the F-14, said Jolene Keeler, a spokeswoman for the naval air force Atlantic. The air force plane was from Wiesbaden air base in West Germany. The F-14, from the carrier USS Saratoga, carries the long-range Phoenix missile, the medium-range Sparrow and the short-range Sidewinder, but Keeler said she did not know which hit the air force jet.

Tunisian trial verdict delayed

TUNIS (AP) — Tunisia's state security court announced Wednesday it has postponed until later in the week its verdict in the trial of 90 Islamic fundamentalists charged with terrorism and plotting to overthrow the government of President Habib Bourguiba. The prosecution has demanded the death penalty for all the accused, who allegedly were hacked and inspired by Iran. Tunisia broke diplomatic relations with Iran as a result. The month-long trial had been expected to end late Tuesday. Court President Hachemi Zemmal said he had approved a defense motion for further cross-examination of a key prosecution witness, a young girl identified only as Naima, delaying the verdict at least until Friday.

Biden quits race

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senator Joseph Biden withdrew Wednesday from the race for the 1988 Democratic presidential nomination, saying the "exaggerated shadow" of his mistakes had begun "to obscure the essence of my candidacy." Mr. Biden told a news conference that reports he plagiarized others' speeches were interfering with his running of the Senate judiciary committee hearings into the nomination of Robert Bork to the supreme court (See earlier story on page 8).

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Times Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومي سياسى مستقل ناشرة مؤسسة الصحفة الأردنية، الراي.

Saudi, UAE leaders meet on Gulf

ABU DHABI (AP) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan of the United Arab Emirates called Wednesday for a collective stand by the Arab and Muslim nations to help end the protracted Iran-Iraq war. The official Emirates news agency (WAN) said the two leaders, at a meeting in the Saudi port city of Jeddah, "affirmed the necessity of building an effective Arab-Islamic stand to hasten the efforts being exerted to end the war." The agency, reporting on a lightning visit that Sheikh Zayed paid to Jeddah, earlier in the day, said the talks of the two leaders were part of continuous consultations on the situation in the Gulf region and in the Arab World. Saudi Arabia is the dominant partner in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council alliance which is currently chaired by Sheikh Zayed. The other members are Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman. WAN said the Saudi and UAE leaders made their comment after reviewing developments in the Gulf region in light of the developments of the Iran-Iraq war from all aspects and the aggravating dangers as a result of its continuation. It did not elaborate.

Heightened tension grips Gulf as ships and U.S. brace for Iran's revenge

Khamenei: Tehran reserves the 'right' to retaliate in any form for attack on boat

Combined agency dispatches

SHIPPING cautiously hugged the Gulf coastline and U.S. embassies were braced on Wednesday for a revenge strike by Iran after a U.S. navy helicopter attacked an Iranian ship in the Gulf, killing at least three crewmen.

With tension at a new height in the waterway, where Western warships are sweeping for mines and escorting some tankers, Iranian President Ali Khamenei voiced Iranian anger, calling Monday's attack one of the biggest mistakes of the Reagan administration.

"In any way, we shall reserve the right of retaliation and response for ourselves," Mr. Khamenei told a news conference

in New York, where on Tuesday he had addressed the United Nations General Assembly.

Washington said the vessel had already laid six mines off Bahrain when the helicopter launched a night attack and was within its international legal rights. Iran said the vessel was an innocent cargo ship.

The United States rallied support for an arms embargo, but diplomats in the Gulf said it would be almost impossible to stop weapons reaching Tehran and a boycott of Iranian oil might be the only effective way to stall its war machine (See page 7).

U.S. navy warships warned commercial ships away from an area of the central Gulf on Wednesday as they searched for mines planted by the Iranian ship before it was discovered and attacked on Monday.

Gulf-based shipping sources said a reflagged Kuwaiti gas carrier had begun its southbound voyage under U.S. escort, but Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger, asked in a Washington television interview whether a convoy was moving, replied, "not that I know of."

U.S. officials were discussing how to return 26 Iranians taken

(Continued on page 3)

Britain closes Iran arms office and urges embargo on Tehran

LONDON (Agencies) — Britain on Wednesday ordered the closure of Iran's arms procurement office in London and said it was expelling its Tehran-based staff.

Iranian Charge d'Affaires Akhondzadeh Bastani was called to the Foreign Office and told of the decision, announced earlier in New York by Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe.

A Foreign Office spokesman said the Iranians would leave by Oct. 8. He said between 30 and 50 staff would be expelled but the exact figure was not known at the moment.

Some employees are personnel from Iran's army, navy and air force.

In a speech at the U.N. General Assembly, Mr. Howe also called for an arms embargo against Iran.

Mr. Howe said Britain was calling for the arms embargo because of its attacks on ships in the Gulf and its refusal to accept a ceasefire in the seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

On Monday, he said, at least one Iranian ship attacked a British tanker, the Gentle Breeze. One crewman was killed and a fire was

started.

"For us, the cynical attack on the 'Gentle Breeze' was the last straw," Mr. Howe said. "The U.N. as a whole should learn the same lesson from what Iran has said and done this week," he said, referring to U.S. charges of Iranian mine-sowing in the Gulf.

He urged the United Nations to impose an arms embargo "to prevent the flow of arms to those wishing to ignore the United Nations and to prolong the conflict" — a reference to Iran.

Mr. Howe said the attack in international waters on the "Gentle Breeze" was "a disgraceful and unprovoked act of aggression against an unarmed vessel" and the sixth attack on a British ship in the Gulf.

He said the Gulf is an international thoroughfare and no state has the right to dictate who uses it.

Mr. Howe said freedom of navigation is "threatened by indiscriminate attacks on unarmed vessels, by harassment of innocent merchant shipping. And, most reckless of all, by the laying of random mines."

Both Britain and the United States said they would urge the U.N. Security Council to impose an arms embargo against Iran if it does not accept the U.N. Security Council's July 20 resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire in the war.

The council's ceasefire call was unanimous, but diplomatic sources said some members were hesitant about sanctions against Iran and intense negotiations might be necessary to maintain the unity needed for an arms ban.

The current president of the council, Foreign Minister Obed Asamoa of Ghana, told reporters here on Tuesday that he did not believe Iran had yet delivered its definitive response to the ceasefire call.

"This is a time for quiet diplomacy," he said.

But Mr. Howe said: "After Iran's deeds and words this week, can anyone still believe that she intends to comply with the resolution?"

Turning to the Arab-Israeli conflict, Mr. Howe said Britain was convinced of the need for an international conference on the

RJ hijack suspect held without bond

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — A U.S. magistrate has ordered that an accused Lebanese guerrilla, arrested by Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents on hijacking charges, be kept in jail without bond while awaiting trial.

Judge Jean Dwyer granted a request on Tuesday by U.S. government prosecutors that Fawaz Younis, the alleged mastermind of the 1985 hijacking of a Royal Jordanian (RJ) airliner, remain confined in maximum security cell at a secret location near Washington.

The prosecutors described Younis as a dangerous criminal suspect, and warned, that if released, he might attempt to flee the United States for a safe haven in Lebanon.

Younis, who has pleaded not guilty, will stand trial on charges of hostage taking, conspiracy and destruction of an aircraft. The charges carry a maximum penalty of life in prison.

The United States arrested Younis because three U.S. nationals were among the more than 60 passengers aboard RJ flight 402 that was hijacked on June 11, 1985, as it left Beirut for Amman.

No one was killed during the 28-hour ordeal, but the prosecutors said that Jordanian skymarshals aboard the plane were

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued on page 4)



Prince Hassan to address General Assembly

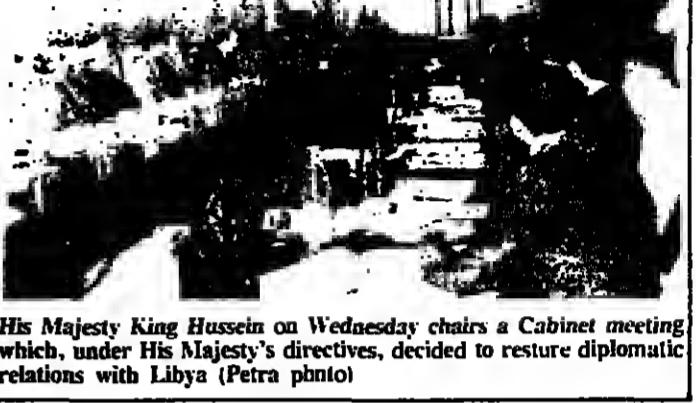
Jordan decides to restore diplomatic ties with Libya

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Jordan announced on Wednesday it was restoring diplomatic relations with Libya after a three-year-seven-month break and said the decision, which was taken upon the directives of His Majesty King Hussein, manifested the Kingdom's commitment to serving and safeguarding higher Arab interests.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the decision to restore relations, severed after rampaging crowds ransacked and burned the Jordanian embassy in

(Continued on page 3)



His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday chairs a Cabinet meeting at which, under His Majesty's directives, decided to restore diplomatic relations with Libya (Petra photo)

Preparatory panel for summit reviews work

AMMAN (Petra) — A higher committee preparing for the extraordinary Arab summit to be held here on Nov. 8 held a meeting on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai.

The committee, made up of Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Oasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and several Cabinet members, discussed arrangements and measures to be taken in preparation for the summit conference. It also reviewed work of sub-committees which are to be set up for this purpose, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Petra said that the higher committee would hold another meeting in Amman on Sunday to follow up the work of sub-committees.

Meanwhile, Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdul Latif Al Filali, who delivered a message from

Arab council ends session

TUNIS (Petra) — The Arab League Council ended its 88th ordinary session on Tuesday and issued a statement emphasizing that the Palestine question remains the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict and calling for solidarity among Arab states.

The statement paid tribute to the Palestinian people for their continued struggle and steadfastness and voiced support for an international conference under U.N. auspices to bring lasting peace to the Middle East.

The statement voiced the Arab League's condemnation of the Iranian regime for its arms deals with Israel and its continued acts of aggression on Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

The statement called on Arab countries to intensify efforts with the U.S. administration to dissuade it from transferring its embassy to Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and to reconsider its decision to close the Palestine Information Centre in Washington.

Bureaucracy and lack of popular awareness seen slowing down voter card applications

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In last May's rush to register voters for parliamentary elections, nearly one million Jordanians registered their names as eligible voters. But, judging by the low turnout so far of those already registered to obtain government-issued identity cards, not less than 60 per cent of the electorate voted in the previous elections.

Committees set up by the Ministry of Interior throughout the Kingdom to supervise the processing of voter cards are complaining over the slow process of registration and people's lack of interest in obtaining the document.

Furthermore, the issue has also set off an argument between those who have supported the government's decision to issue the cards and those who opposed it.

Possession of individual voter identity cards as a must for every

Parliament to convene on Oct. 10

AMMAN (Petra) — Parliament will reconvene in an ordinary session on Oct. 10, according to a Royal Decree issued on Wednesday.

One who wants to exercise his or her basic democratic right was made mandatory with the adoption of the new election law which was enacted in April 1986.

The new cards replace the earlier identification instrument, the family book — "daftar al ayleh" — which was needed in previous by-elections. The family book is issued by the Civil Registration Department (CRD), which comes under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Interior.

The same 700 centres involved in registering voters in the May registration process are now re-

(Continued on page 3)

61% of Israelis reject negotiations with PLO

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Despite secret talks between members of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Herut Party, the main faction in the Likud bloc, and supporters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), 61 per cent of Israelis reject any dialogue with the PLO, an opinion poll published on Wednesday showed.

The survey in the Yedioth Ahronot newspaper found most Israelis would not negotiate with the PLO even if it recognised Israel, accepted U.N. resolutions enshrining Israel's "right to exist"

"We know the PLO wants us wiped out, and it's a tactic to put us asleep and cheat us," he said. "Still today they look to take the path of deceit, to achieve a foothold in the land of Israel and from that to continue the war."

A member of Herut's central committee, Moshe Amitay, has embarrassed his party by admitting he held talks with prominent PLO supporters over four months on Palestinian "self-rule" in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and

(Continued on page 4)

Mitterrand satisfied with superpower INF accord

PARIS (AP) — In his first statement since those of conservative Premier Jacques Chirac, although the two men have maintained that they hold the same position regarding disarmament.

France supports the arms reduction agreement, so long as it is global, equal and verifiable," the president said.

The president noted his satisfaction with the announcement of a new accord between the United States and the Soviet Union on the elimination of intermediate nuclear weapons, of which he entirely approves," said a presidential spokeswoman following a cabinet meeting Wednesday morning.

Presidential spokeswoman Michele Gendreau-Masaloux said Mr. Mitterrand also called for an urgent international meeting to discuss the banning of all chemical weapons and to examine the balance in conventional arms in Europe.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said Wednesday west Germany could not rest content with a superpower ban on medium-range missiles.

Soviets cast doubt on U.S. version of Gulf incident

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Armed Forces Chief of Staff Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev suggested on Wednesday that Moscow did not accept the Washington version of Monday's U.S. attack on an Iranian vessel in the Gulf.

"It is difficult to say if Iran was caught red-handed. We were not there," Marshal Akhromeyev said during a live televised discussion between deputies to the Soviet parliament and members of the United States Congress. The marshal had been asked by U.S. Democratic Senator Sam Nunn, who said the Iranians had been caught laying mines in international waters, for the Soviet reaction to the affair.

"But it were the case that the Iranians were laying mines, there is no justification. It would be a violation of international law," Marshal Akhromeyev added.

At the same time, the Soviet Communist Party newspaper Pravda accused the United States of exercising "the law of the big fist" in the Gulf.

In a report from Washington, it said the attack on the Iranian vessel, which Tehran says was an innocent merchant ship, "in effect amounts to direct American intervention in the Iran-Iraq conflict."

The wording of the Pravda report suggested clearly that the U.S. account was not to be believed.

As a Pentagon spokesman asserted, the excuse for the attack was "suspicion" that the (Iranian) vessel's crew was laying mines," Pravda said.

"But no-one can vouch for whether the information is correct or not, since, as the U.S. network CBS underlined, the incident took place in the dark."

Pravda said it was ironic that the affair had taken place soon after President Ronald Reagan had assured the United Nations General Assembly in New York

that the United States had no aggressive intentions in the Gulf.

"The emptiness of the high-flown declarations of the boss of the White House was put under spotlight by the fire on the Iranian vessel," the Communist Party daily said.

The Washington arguments that this was "self-defence", "a defensive action", can only mislead the uninformed, who will not think of asking themselves the following logical question:

"What right does the United States have in general to launch unilateral military action in a region many thousands of kilometres away from its own borders?"

The United States said on Tuesday the attack on an Iranian ship it was laying mines was justified under the United Nations Charter.

"Every state has, under the U.N. Charter, the right to use reasonable and proportionate force in self-defence, including the defence of its warships or other vessels flying its flag, against actual or imminent attack," State Department spokesman Phyllis Oakley told reporters.

"In particular, where mines are laid in international waters which threaten the safety of U.S. vessels navigating in the area, we have the right to respond with the force necessary to terminate that threat," she said.

"That was the case in the current incident."

Mrs. Oakley said the Iranian landing craft Iran AJR was caught red-handed laying mines in international waters of the Gulf.

Congressman suggests holding Iranians hostage

WASHINGTON (AP) — A member of Congress suggested Tuesday that the United States use 26 Iranian prisoners taken in the U.S. attack on an Iranian vessel as leverage to secure the release of Americans held hostage in Lebanon.

"The events of last night's min-

"Such actions are a direct threat to U.S. warships and flag vessels in the Gulf, as was clearly demonstrated by the Bridgeton incident," Mrs. Oakley said.

Washington says it has sent a large fleet of ships to the vital waterway to protect the freedom of navigation and keep oil flowing to the West.

On the first escort of convoys of Kuwaiti ships re-registered as American in July, the supertanker Bridgeton hit a mine. U.S. officials said had been laid by Iran.

Mrs. Oakley said the attack on the Iran AJR by an American helicopter in which at least three sailors were killed was aimed at stopping it from laying mines.

Reagan administration officials said on Tuesday that night is like day in the world of electronic warfare and that is how U.S. military helicopters laying mines in the Iranian navy boat laying mines in the Gulf.

The crew of those choppers can look through the FLIR (forward-looking infra-red) device at night and see a fuzzy green TV-type picture that turns night into day," one of the officials, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters.

In layman's terms, FLIR picks up the heat from bodies, engines and equipment and electronically enhances it to generate a television picture.

"A good one (infra-red device) has about the same resolution as a black-and-white television," said Lonnie Schuepbach, defence contractor FLIR Systems Inc. of Portland, Oregon, which builds the devices.

Defence officials told Reuters the Iranian crewmembers apparently did not realise they were being watched as they dumped mines after dark into Gulf waters used as an anchorage by tankers plying the international oil-shipping lanes.

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doubt provide leverage in any proposed recovery of American hostages," he wrote.

Mr. Sensenbrenner urged Mr. Reagan "to suggest a speedy return of the Iranian POWs would be possible if the Iranian government would exert the appropriate influence to secure the release of our citizens."

De Mita voices opposition to Italy's Gulf naval mission

ROME (R) — The leader of the Christian Democrats, Italy's most powerful party, has raised a political storm by expressing strong doubts about the government's decision to send warships to the Gulf.

"Every day the Italian naval mission risks becoming simply an adventure... It would be better if the ships never arrived," Ciriaco De Mita told journalists on Tuesday after the latest flareup in Gulf attacks.

The decision to push ahead

with the missile compromise was made Monday at an inter-agency meeting at the White House, the sources said. They said Chief of Staff Howard Baker was the main proponent of the suggestion, wishing to guarantee acceptance of the proposal.

The Saudis have opened them-

selves to threats from Tehran

through their support for Iraq, as well as cooperation with the United States in aerial police patrols over the Gulf to prevent Iranian mining activity.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy last week praised Saudi assistance in expanding surveillance beyond their air space, as well as their help in minesweeping activity in international waters. But he declined to go into details, saying that would compromise Saudi Arabia's position.

The Reagan administration is also seeking reaction to the sale proposal from pro-Israeli lobbyists in Washington, the sources

Reagan seeking compromise on Saudi arms sale

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House is checking congressional reaction to a compromise arms-sale package to Saudi Arabia that would drop 1,600 Maverick anti-tank missiles from the deal, sources said.

Under terms of the proposal, the administration would also remove electronic upgrading equipment for F-15 fighter jets, the sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

That would leave the sale of 12 F-105 as replacement craft for fighters in the Saudi arsenal that require replacement through accident or old age.

The proposal is designed to prevent another congressional embarrassment for President Ronald Reagan, such as the one he suffered when he was forced last June to withdraw the Saudi package because of vehement opposition.

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Seminar to address world economic crisis

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-day seminar will open at the Amman-based Arab Mining Company headquarters on Saturday to discuss joint Arab economic action in the face of the world economic recession and the international economic crisis.

The seminar, which has been organised by the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU), will discuss seven working papers prepared by Arab economic experts, university professors, and prominent intellectuals, according to an official announcement from the CEAU in Amman Wednesday.

The announcement said that Jordan's representative at the CEAU and Minister of Industry, Trade, and Supply Rajai Muasher will chair the meetings. The seminar is designed to analyse the dimensions and cause

of the world economic crisis, the announcement said. It added that the delegates will also focus attention on forging a joint Arab economic stance which serve Arab aims and objectives.

A great number of participants representing economic organisations will take part in the seminar, in addition to the following Arab League institutions: the Arab Mining Company, the Arab Company for Drug Industries and Medical Appliances, the Arab Company for Livestock Development, the Federation of Arab chambers of industry, agriculture and trade, as well as Jordanian companies and institutions. These include the University of Jordan, Yarmouk University, the Central Bank of Jordan, the Royal Scientific Society, and the Amman chamber of commerce and industry.

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Preparations for celebration on Prophet's birthday begin

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will celebrate the birthday of the Prophet Mohammad on Monday, Nov. 2, and ceremonies on the occasion will be organised by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, according to an official announcement.

A meeting was held in Amman on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat, during which arrangements for the celebration were discussed.

The announcement said that the main ceremony will be held

at the Palace of Culture of Al Hussein Youth City, other celebrations will be held in different parts of the country.

At the meeting attended by a higher committee on the celebrations, several subcommittees were appointed to take charge of these events. The committee said that several television and radio programmes and seminars will be organised on the occasion, which will be a public holiday.

Those attending the meeting included the ministry's under-secretary, Abdul Salam Al Abdadi, and senior aides.

Arab universities association announces upcoming meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman-based Association of Arab Universities (AAU) will hold its next annual session in the North Yemeni capital of San'a in February, to be followed by the AAU's sixth general conference, which will deal with higher education in the Arab World from now until the year 2000.

This announcement was made by AAU President Mohammad Dugheim, who said that the AAU secretariat has entrusted a number of Arab experts to pre-

pare the main research papers to be submitted to the conference on higher education.

The AAU will hold shortly a workshop on informatics in management of higher educational institutions in the Arab World, in cooperation with the Amman-based regional office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). This workshop, which will be held at the University of Jordan, is scheduled to take place from Oct. 3 through 8.

Italian tour agents pave way for tourist groups

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of Italian tour operators are currently in Jordan as part of a familiarisation programme designed to pave the way for organising visits by Italian tourist groups.

The Royal Jordanian, the nation's air carrier, together with the Plaza Hotel and Petra Tours, has organised the group's visit, as well as its tours of different archaeological and other sites of

interest in the country.

The Italian visitors, who are considered leading tour agents in their country, will study the prospect of cooperating with the organisers of their programme in planning Italian tourist group visits to the Kingdom.

The tour operators are being taken on trips to the Dead Sea, Petra, Jerash, the Jordan valley, Ajloun, and Aqaba.

Voter enthusiasm seen lacking for ID cards

(Continued from page 1)
eligible voter's apparent lack of interest in obtaining the identity card to several factors:

— The absence of any positive indication that the next elections will take place soon. Seen in the light of the fact that the last elections were held some 21 years ago, the absence of a definite sign of impending elections contributes to a significant portion of the electorate being disinterested in receiving the cards.

"The whole electorate apparently needs reorientation as far as their democratic rights are concerned," commented a senior observer.

— The absence of a wider awareness campaign informing the electorate of the importance of acquiring the identity card. Apart from sporadic follow-up announcements made by the Ministry of Interior, no advertisements urging voters to obtain their cards have been made.

— The bureaucratic process involved in the issuance of the cards. Some people questioned the wisdom of having the centres process the applications. "It would have been easier for the centres to forward their respective voter lists, which were collected in May, to the Interior Ministry which in turn could go ahead with issuing cards," said an aspirant to a seat in Parliament and who preferred to remain anonymous.

Furthermore, the applying process, which involves submitting two photographs of each voter with self-filled application forms, is another factor discouraging voters, said an official in charge of a centre in an Amman suburb.

"Why should anyone spend money for photographs to obtain a card?" asked an elderly man who was carrying a bunch of applications at the centre. "I have spent JD. 10 to get the photographs of seven of my grown-up children who are eligible to vote and my two wives. But not every-

Wahbe praises resumption of Jordanian-Egyptian ties on occasion of third anniversary

By Lamis K. Andoni
and Najwa Najar

Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — Friday marks the third anniversary of Jordan's resumption of relations with Egypt — a step which was viewed by Arab and Western analysts as a prelude to the return of Egypt to the Arab fold.

Over the past three years, Jordanian and Egyptian relations have advanced rapidly in all spheres of bilateral cooperation, particularly political coordination in efforts to find negotiated settlement to the Palestinian question.

In fact, Jordanian-Egyptian coordination, according to observers, has reached an unprecedented level in the history of bilateral Arab relations, excluding the several, brief unity experiments which characterised inter-Arab relations in the 1950s and 1960s. This closeeness has strongly manifested itself in the 19 summits that took place between His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, and the 22 bilateral protocols and agreements, covering all fields, over the past three years.

In a press conference held on this occasion, Egypt's ambassador to Amman, Ihab Wahbe hailed Jordan's decision "as a highly-appreciated and historical weight." Mr. Wahbe said that, since then, both countries "have developed an identical position

on three essential Arab issues." He noted that the three issues include, efforts to convene an international peace conference, unequivocal support for Iraq in its war against Iran and for an immediate end to the seven-year conflict, and the restoration of Arab solidarity."

Jordan was the first country to resume diplomatic relations with Egypt, and, to do so, sparked a debate among Arab governments and media. Critics of resumption of diplomatic ties with Cairo argued then that the Jordanian step is a violation of the 1978 Baghdad Summit resolution which called for severing ties with any Arab government that signs a unilateral peace treaty with Israel.

But Jordan, and other Arab supporters of resumption of diplomatic ties, rejected this argument, pointing out that the Baghdad summit resolutions had left open for the individual Arab states the decision on the stand they would adopt towards Egypt.

The main Jordanian argument was that this step was crucial to regain Arab solidarity, taking into consideration the political weight of Egypt.

The debate over Arab relations with Egypt was one of the most important issues discussed during the First Arab Strategic Conference, which concluded here last week. The participants, who included Egyptian officials, as well

as scholars, agreed that Egypt's return to the Arab fold was "extremely relevant to rectify the prevailing balance of power in the region... which paralyses the potential of the Arab World to confront the external and internal threats."

During the three-day conference, two views clearly emerged concerning means to achieve a complete and effective return of Egypt to the Arab fold. The first opinion, held mainly by opponents of the Camp David Treaty, argued that Egypt be the party "to take steps forward by moving away from the policies dictated by its peace treaty with Israel."

The second view was held by supporters of the Camp David Treaty, as well as those who vehemently oppose the agreement but believe that it is the responsibility of Arab countries to approach Cairo and to encourage Egypt to resume its role in the Arab League.

Proponents of this opinion, however, differ on the point of the basic premises, in accordance with their respective stands on Camp David. Supporters of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty argue that Egypt has "maintained its practical support for the Arab causes despite its peace with Israel."

Opponents of the treaty, on the other hand, insisted that "the isolation of Egypt was not effective to realise the Arab objective of returning Cairo to the Arab fold."

Agricultural marketing firm signs contracts for importation of apples

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO) has concluded contracts with exporters in Turkey, France, and Lebanon to import apples, and the first consignment will be available in the local markets early next month at reasonable prices for consumers, JAMPCO Director-General Ghazi Abu Hassan said in a statement on Wednesday.

"Mr. Abu Hassan said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the company will import sufficient quantities of apples to fill the Jordanian market. He added that the importation will take place during October, after which imports of apples will stop for three months to resume in February.

JAMPCO, after consulting with the authorities in charge of the agricultural sector in the Kingdom, has drawn up a programme for importing apples in October, June, July, August, and up to the middle of September,

the face of foreign competition, and also encourages the local farmers to plant apple trees, whose fruit is in great demand in the local market and abroad.

In previous years, Jordan imported nearly 40,000 tonnes of apples annually, at the total cost of JD 7 million. Mr. Abu Hassan said that apples could be grown in Jordan in great quantities, with each dunum yielding nearly three tonnes; therefore, the demand for apples could be filled by planting 8,000 dunums of apple trees.

The great demand for apples in Jordan has prompted farmers to plant more than 3,000 dunums with apple trees so far.

The JAMPCO programme of rationalising importation of apples has reduced the total amount paid for imported apples from JD 7 million to JD 1 million, Mr. Abu Hassan noted.

JAMPCO, which now has a mandate to import and export vegetables and fruits of all kinds, has concluded contracts for the apples on a barter basis.

The government has confined the importation of apples to JAMPCO, because the company can keep control over the imported quantities and can decide on the suitable months of the year when apples can be imported without causing harm to the interests of the local farmers, the JAMPCO director-general added. This programme, he said, provides ample protection for the local farmers and their crops, in

selected months of the year in order to give local farmers a chance to market their fruits and to encourage them to increase their output so as to bolster the national economy, Mr. Abu Hassan said.

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A random survey taken by the Jordan Times among officials and voters found mixed feelings over the concept behind issuing the voter cards.

Opponents of the card argue that Jordanians have enough of official documents to show their identity, including passports, the family book, driving licences and civil registration cards. "This procedure is only another means of self-identification. I have so many documents to show who I am," said a frustrated potential voter.

Some, including a former Cabinet member, see the card as a means of securing individual freedom in choosing their candidates.

Regardless of the divided views of the voter card, it remains a manifestation of the undergoing development and progress of the electoral process which will enhance and institutionalise democratic practices in Jordan.

Jordan to restore diplomatic relations with Libya

(Continued from page 1)
Libya in February 1984, also reflected the Kingdom's true adherence to pan-Arab principles in which Jordan always believed in and for which the Kingdom offered sacrifices.

Petra said the decision, which came as Jordan is preparing to host an extraordinary Arab summit in Amman on Nov. 8, was part of the Kingdom's endeavour to ensure a successful beginning to a new era of international relations.

The decision was announced after a Cabinet meeting which was partly chaired by the King. The meeting also reviewed preparations for holding the Nov. 8 summit in Amman.

During the meeting, the King spoke of the importance of the summit, "which comes at a time when the Arab Nation is going through numerous ordeals and difficulties and as the Arab masses are looking for means of protecting the Arab Order and

political civilisation" and a key element in guaranteeing organised elections.

Other interviewees called on the government to make it mandatory for every eligible voter to attain a card, regardless of whether or not he or she wanted to participate in future elections.

Mr. Adnan Mirza, director of the CRD, said the card would make the whole process of voting "much easier and more organised."

Some, including a former Cabinet member, see the card as a means of securing individual freedom in choosing their candidates.

The Jordanian decision to sever relations with Libya was taken on Feb. 22, 1984, four days after crowds stormed the Kingdom's embassy in the Libyan capital.

The Jordanian move to resume diplomatic relations with Libya also follows an Iraqi-Libyan reconciliation after several years of strained relations because of Tripoli's support for Iran in the Gulf war.

A Libyan-Iraqi statement issued after a visit to Baghdad by the Libyan foreign minister earlier this month called for an immediate end to the war and emphasised the need for Arab unity and solidarity.

Mr. Rifai expressed the gov-

100,000 jobs now open to Jordanians — Haj Hassan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Haj Hassan announced Wednesday that Jordanian job seekers now have more than 100,000 jobs to choose from, thanks to the recently-adopted strict measures designed to stem the employment of foreign workers in the Kingdom.

Mr. Haj Hassan said, in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that Jordanians are now required for work in agriculture, construction, and the hotel business, among other fields. He urged all job seekers to apply for jobs through the newly-opened employment office to Amman.

These jobs can earn job seekers more than they can dream to get from clerical and other white-

collar jobs, the minister said.

Mr. Haj Hassan added that the new office, which is located at the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions building in Sbeineh will open for business on Oct. 1.

In another move to help find work for unemployed Jordanians, the Ministry of Labour and Social Development has asked employers and businesses to start advertising in the local press about available jobs to inform job-

seeking Jordanian readers about them, so as to help stem the problem of unemployment in the country. Mr. Haj Hassan noted.

The ministry last month issued a strict warning to all employers and businesses to give priority in employment to Jordanians. It also warned that strict measures will be taken against employers found giving jobs to non-Jordanians without work permits.

Non-Jordanians can no longer be employed as salesmen and saleswomen in stores or as attendants at petrol stations and car washes. The ministry's list also includes other job categories forbidden to non-Jordanians, such as teaching, secretarial work, accountancy, and clerical jobs.

Amman Chamber of Industry to mark 25 years of development

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Chamber of Industry will hold

celebrations under royal patronage on Saturday to mark its silver jubilee. The celebrations will include a ceremony for inaugurating the monument on the Second Circle of Jabal Amman, which the chamber had set up in memory of His Majesty King Hussein's 50th birthday, and another ceremony of opening the new and enlarged exhibition of national products.

The celebrations will include, in addition, a ceremony for honouring veteran industrialists and officials who have contributed to the development of Jordanian industries over the past 25 years.

The chamber's director, Mohammad Saleh Jaber, said that, since its establishment in 1962, the Amman Chamber of Industry (ACI) has endeavoured to carry out plans designed to promote the industrial sector and to represent this sector at government meetings, seminars, and

conferences.

In addition, he said, the chamber takes part in the meetings of all Jordanian organisations concerned with economic and social development, like the Industrial Development Bank, the Amman Financial Market, the Social Security Corporation, the Vocational Training Corporation, the Jordanian Trade Centres Corporation, the Institute of Public Administration, the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the International Labour Organisation, and the Arab Labour Organisation.

Mr. Jaber stressed that the Amman Chamber of Industry realises the importance of promoting exports which would bring in revenues, thereby enabling an expansion of businesses and the absorption of more workers in industry. For this reason, the chamber has enlarged its permanent exhibition of Jordanian products, which now displays the maximum number of items that are on sale in Jordan and abroad.

Red Cross, Red Crescent officials discuss services provided in region

AMMAN (Petra) — Red Cross services, in general, and those offered to the prisoners of war in Iran and Iraq.

Mr. Convers, who arrived here Tuesday after a tour of the Gulf region and Saudi Arabia, said that he discussed with Dr. Abu Qura and heads of Red Crescent societies in the Arab Gulf states the escalation of the Gulf war, as well as efforts by humanitarian organisations and the United Nations to end the war.

The ICRC has permanent offices in Iraq and Iran and conducts visits to prisoners of war on a regular basis in implementation of the Geneva conventions concerning the treatment of the prisoners of war in Iran and Iraq.

Meanwhile, it was announced here that the sixth meeting of the International Islamic Red Crescent Committee will open in Amman on Monday. Delegates from Libya, Sudan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Qatar, Mali, Turkey, and Cameroon will take part in the conference, according to a JNRC spokesman.

Meantime, it was announced here that the sixth meeting of the International Islamic Red Crescent Committee will open in Amman on Monday. Delegates from Libya, Sudan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Qatar, Mali, Turkey, and Cameroon will take part in the conference, according to a JNRC spokesman.

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Telling days ahead

IRAN'S lopsided interpretation of Resolution 598 already caused pessimism among the members of the United Nations and the suspicion that Iran is anything but ready and willing to accept that resolution, and that, for all intents and purposes, it is simply playing for time. Iran's last word on the resolution, as expressed by its president, Sayyed Ali Khamenei, to the U.N. General Assembly on Sept. 22 was a tantamount to a rejection of the Security Council resolution demanding a ceasefire in the Gulf war as a first step that could lead to a negotiated settlement of all outstanding issues between Iraq and Iran. Now, the focus of world attention is on the permanent members of the Security Council to find out for certain whether the consensus achieved among them heretofore, and expressed in Resolution 598, could be repeated. It is now up to the U.N. Security Council, especially the permanent members of the Council, in act in concert and unanimity in response to Iran's rejection of official acceptance of the ceasefire resolution. There is already an escalation in the tensions in the Gulf, and there is only one direction left for the situation there to develop unless it is arrested by a unified and strong reaction by the Security Council.

With the U.S. and its allies already drafting a resolution that would impose an arms embargo on Iran, and the Soviet Union expressing willingness in such an arms embargo, the stage is set for a repetition of the unprecedented consensus that the permanent members of the Security Council achieved on July 20. Should this prove to be true, it will manifest exemplary statesmanship by the two superpowers, as well as provide a living testimony that the emerging detente between them is truly on terra firma. This is not to suggest that there are no longer geopolitical considerations in the Gulf which divide the two superpowers; rather, it would suggest that nuclear arms deals between them takes primacy over all other considerations and objectives, at least for the time being. The Washington agreement in principle between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, last week, to scrap all short and intermediate-range nuclear missiles from their respective arsenals may be at risk, should they differ drastically on how to proceed in dealing with the Gulf conflict. The stakes for both countries are immense, and there is nothing that they would not do to avoid undoing what they painstakingly achieved last week. The real test of the superpowers' deterrent will take place in the coming few days, when the consultations among the permanent members of the Security Council proceed with the purpose of designing a follow-up resolution envisioning the application of sanctions on the belligerent state which does not abide by the ceasefire resolution.

The escalation in the hostilities between Iran and the U.S. adds a new dimension to the conflict, the repercussions of which have yet to unfold. This may tax the unanimity among the members of the Security Council and jeopardise their united stand in the face of Iranian aggression. Yet, it could also act as a catalyst to speed up the international enforcement action against Iran, in order to put an effective end to the war. The next few days should determine with clarity the course that the U.N. Security Council will take in the face of mounting tension in the Gulf.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

A/Ra'i: King returns home

KING Hussein has returned to Amman following visits to the United Kingdom and Switzerland where he held talks on the Middle East question and the Iran-Iraq war. The King's return marks the beginning of a new flurry of diplomatic activity for handling the two problems at a summit meeting to be attended by heads of Arab states as decided on by the recent foreign ministers meeting in Tunis. Amman together with the rest of the Arab capitals are making ready for the coming meeting which is hoped to offer solutions to the problems of the Arab World. Amman has been striving to unify Arab ranks and re-establish Arab solidarity and the chance is here now to discuss this issue when the Arab leaders meet in this capital. The coming few weeks that precede summit will witness additional efforts by King Hussein and Jordan at large in order to ensure a successful outcome. There will be consultations and contacts among the Arab countries for coordinating their stands with regard to the issues on the agenda, and there will be further efforts to overcome differences that impede the summit's success. King Hussein has never stopped his efforts to end these differences and never has he spared any moment without exploring means of reconciling Arab leaders. His main concern is to unify Arab efforts to deal with the Gulf conflict and the Arab-Israeli issue for which he had been seeking solutions and enlisting the help of different world nations to achieve that goal.

Al Dustour: A recognition of Jordan's role

BY deciding to hold an Arab summit meeting in Amman, the Arab League has thus given good credit to Jordan for its pan-Arab efforts and its relentless and diligent work aimed at re-unifying Arab ranks. The decision served as a recognition of King Hussein's current endeavours in the Arab and international arenas to serve Arab causes and was like a medal of distinguished value awarded to this country which has been striving to end differences among Arab countries and rally the Arabs for confronting their common enemies. The decision to hold the coming summit in Amman has drawn wide-scale welcome and support from all corners of the Arab World — a clear manifestation of the Arab countries' recognition of Jordan's role and distinguished status within the Arab community. Entrusting this country with handling a summit meeting is tantamount to recognising Jordan's role as a bridge linking different parts of the Arab World. In the international arena, Jordan has been able to win support for its call for an international conference to end the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of Security Council resolutions. We take pride in Jordan's continued pan-Arab role and the efforts of King Hussein and his major diplomatic successes here and abroad.

Sawt Al Shaab: King's successful mission

KING Hussein's successful talks with British and Swiss leaders during his most recent tour abroad have given further momentum to the Arab drive to end Arab-Israeli conflict. These talks have also enhanced Arab-European dialogue and strengthened the Arab image and Jordan's diplomatic presence in Europe. King Hussein's efforts in European nations have drawn welcome and deep satisfaction on the Arab and European countries. King Hussein has succeeded, not only in winning support for Arab causes but also in changing the distorted image in the minds of the Europeans as painted by Israel. King Hussein who is intent on offering service to the Arab Nation brought up the question of the Gulf war calling for the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 to end the conflict between Iran and Iraq. King Hussein also continued his drive for the implementation of council Resolution 242 for ending the Arab-Israeli conflict and establishing lasting peace. The results of the King's tour and his talks with European leaders will continue to bear fruit and will have its beneficial impact on the coming Arab summit meeting.

Gorbachev battles range of obstacles in bid for reform

By Tony Barber
Reuter

MOSCOW — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is battling against a range of obstacles — from a slump in trade with the West to popular concern over price and wage reforms — that are blocking his drive for economic change.

Two-and-a-half years into his rule, Gorbachev has chartered a programme of meeting the Soviet people's demand for housing, food and high-quality consumer goods and transforming the economy into a force fully competitive on world markets.

Western economists and businessmen in Moscow say his determination is clear, but he faces many difficulties — some inherited from his Kremlin predecessors and some arising from the ambitious scope of his reform course.

"In some ways, it is like when a Western leader ... starts trying to reform an economy in the doldrums. Unexpected problems crop up, and things seem to get worse before they get better," one economist said.

Perhaps the hardest area to assess is the extent to which Gorbachev's reforms are meeting resistance, or sheer apathy, within the vast state and Communist Party bureaucracy and from the

public at large.

The weekly Moscow News provided startling confirmation of popular discontent last week when it described how bus drivers in Chekhov, a town south of Moscow, staged a brief strike in protest at housing conditions and stiff wage regulations.

One driver, explaining how his pay depended on fulfilling all his work schedules, said: "How can they be fulfilled when most of our buses look like tanks after battle? Their average age is that of my grandmother."

A similar scheme which penalises workers for making shoddy goods caused protests last year in a truck plant in the city of Brezhnev. The newspaper Izvestia implied aggrieved workers felt the problem lay in external factors such as delays in supplies.

Conversations with Muscovites make clear many people are concerned at the prospect of price rises for basic goods and services that have been kept artificially low for decades by billions of roubles (dollars) in government subsidies.

Reformist economists have also talked of closing thousands of inefficient state enterprises and relocating large numbers of workers with an enthusiasm that seems not to strike a chord with people used to day-to-day job security.

The authorities say they are planning to introduce radical price changes from 1990 but, in what economists consider a co-operation that could weaken the impact of the reform, have pledged also to increase wages, pensions and social benefits.

Gorbachev's industrial reforms, outlined this summer, are intended to make firms more profit-conscious and independent by encouraging them to finance themselves and by releasing them from the need to meet strict

annual state production targets. But Western economists said it appeared conservatives had managed to limit the decentralising scope of the measures. For example, the state remains free under a new law on enterprises to dictate what share of a firm's output it should receive.

In addition, central state control over the allocation of industrial supplies is to continue, albeit mixed with a system of direct trade between enterprises. Moscow-based economic ministries

are therefore still in well-entrenched positions.

Gorbachev has assailed the conservatism of the ministries but has not gone as far as Nikita Khrushchev, who abolished most of them in 1957. This step was a factor in Khrushchev's fall in 1964, and the ministries were soon restored.

One of Gorbachev's most vexing problems that, while a far-reaching reform may take years to implement in the heavily centralised Soviet system, he is under some pressure to show the party and people that he can produce results now.

However, the accumulated burdens of the 1964-82 rule of the late Leonid Brezhnev — which Gorbachev frequently blames for the monumental tasks now facing the Kremlin leadership — mean that a "quick fix" solution is hardly in sight.

The engineering sector, on which Gorbachev pins his hopes for modernisation, has proved slow to overcome its legacy of stagnation. In the first eight months of 1987, only 61 per cent of engineering firms fulfilled their contracts.

A senior Soviet scientist, Yevgeny Velikhov, summed up the problem this summer by saying Soviet technological capacity could expand fivefold by 1995 but the only result would be

stop Moscow falling further behind the world.

Some factors hindering Gorbachev's plans have been outside his control, such as a slump in world oil prices and a weak dollar that have slashed billions of dollars from Moscow's hard currency earnings.

The trade squeeze has not only cut vital imports of Western steel equipment and chemicals but has meant some measures aired by reformist Soviet economists, such as making the rouble convertible, are unthinkable at present.

Now have many Western firms taken up Soviet offers to form joint industrial ventures. Some companies attracted to the idea want to pin down the Soviet approach to issues such as control of labour and repatriation of profits, businessmen said.

Agriculture is one area where the Soviet economy is looking healthier, with a harvest of 210 million tonnes in 1986 and a similar yield predicted this year.

But even harvests of this size must be topped up with large Western grain imports.

Such expenses, coupled with defence expenditures and Gorbachev's commitment to improving the economy on all fronts, from energy and heavy industry to consumer goods, mean that the state's resources are as tightly stretched as ever.

Moscow and Beijing want to participate in the games.

Analysts are concerned that North Korea's 75-year-old leader, Kim Il Sung, may be tempted to attack the south because of his desire to reunite the peninsula in his lifetime.

The north, which frequently has asserted it will take over the south, also may feel the need to move before the balance of power tilts in favour of Seoul, analysts say.

South Korea's recent enormous economic success is rapidly making Seoul more powerful, although Pyongyang still has numerical military superiority, they say.

A successful Olympics unmarred by any attacks could, on the other hand, be a positive sign for the peninsula and, help, create hope that the two countries finally may be able to improve their relations.



Could the Olympics provoke a new Korean war?

By Barry Renfrew
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — The deadlock over North Korea's demands to co-host the 1988 Seoul Olympics has contributed to concern that the games could provoke an armed confrontation or even a new Korean war.

Most analysts agree there is very little chance of all-out war, though they say it cannot be ruled out because of the intense hatred between the two Koreas stemming from their devastating civil war in 1950-53.

But they claim a North Korean military or terrorist act is likely if its demands are not met, as seems increasingly probable.

South Korea and the United States are bolstering their defences to discourage any possibility of a North Korean attack against the games, which start Sept. 17, 1988.

U.S. defence officials have

agreed to step up stocking of munitions to ensure a high level of military readiness, and say they may send more warships and troops to help guard the south during the games. Some 41,000 American troops already are in South Korea under a mutual defence pact.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard Armitage says there is little doubt that North Korea is capable of attacking the south.

"There is a possibility and a probability that North Korea will make an unprovoked armed attack upon South Korea designed to disrupt the Olympic Games," he told reporters in Seoul on Sept. 12.

"The (South) Korean and U.S. forces are fully poised to combat North Korean troops if they thrust into the south," Armitage said. "Our commitment to the security of the Olympics is strong."

On Friday, a U.S. military offi-

cial accused North Korea of trying to suggest there was increased tension on the Korean peninsula in advance of the Olympics.

U.S. Navy Rear Admiral William T. Pendleton was responding to a recent North Korean charge that members of the United Nations command had committed some 44,000 military provocations and criminal acts in the previous year. The command represents the 16 nations that fought with South Korea in the Korean war.

The vast majority of the people of the world, who are looking forward to the Olympic Games in 1988, and wish for peace and stability on the peninsula, will not be deceived," Pendleton said in a letter to the North Koreans.

South Korea sees hosting the Olympics as a major victory over North Korea. Seoul officials say winning the right to host the games proves their country's su-

periority.

"The Olympics will mark a critical turning point for Seoul to achieve permanent superiority over Pyongyang," the Korea Development Institute said.

South Korea and the International Olympic Committee are anxious to avoid any move by North Korea to organise a boycott of the games.

The IOC and South Korea have ruled out the north completely co-hosting the games, but have offered Pyongyang several sports if it drops its demand and takes part in the Seoul games.

Concern about North Korea's intentions has been increased by reports that it has told its people the Olympics will be held in their country. West stadiums and other athletic facilities are under construction in Pyongyang.

The United States, has urged North Korean allies China and the Soviet Union to restrain Pyongyang. U.S. officials say

deathtrap.

Analysts say the concessions she made in her cabinet line-up by dropping liberal-leaning advisers have estranged the left, left her heavily constrained by the right, and reduced further her ability to carry through fundamental reforms.

Her administration's struggle to rebuild the country's economy in part by attracting foreign investment has been destroyed by all the coup," one analyst said.

The result will be growing support for the Communist New People's Army and its guerrilla war, and a growing impression of a powerless government.

On top of everything, Aquino's massive popular support which once swept all before it appears to be eroding and she is increasingly accused of being disintegrated.

"She's just not enough of an actress," a diplomat said. "People still want to love her, but she's just not as cuddly as they thought she would be."

Aquino safe, but problems likely to get worse

By Phillip Melchior
Reuter

MANILA — Bruised and battered by political turmoil, Corazon Aquino remains secure as president of the Philippines but political analysts say her problems are likely to get worse.

The past five weeks have put the 54-year-old president through a political wringer.

"But what we've learned is that she is tougher than we thought and she can take more punishment than many expected," a senior Western diplomat said.

In a month of unending crisis Aquino has faced:

— The most serious attempted military coup of her 18 months in office.

— A crippling show of industrial muscle from the militant left.

— The dropping under military and business pressure of two of her most trusted advisers.

— The political murder last weekend of a prominent leftist leader which has revived pressure

for martial law.

Through all this, the swelling Communist insurgency has provided a continuing backdrop.

The grim litany prompted commentator Amando Doronila to declare in the respected Manila Chronicle newspaper on Tuesday: "The nation today is closer to civil war than it was in 1972." That was when exiled former President Marcos entrenched his own rule by launching almost a decade of martial law.

But diplomats and political analysts polled by Reuters on Tuesday say they did not expect the country to tip over the edge.

"When you look out over the long-term there is real reason for gut unease," one independent analyst said. "But the woman has a remarkable capacity to pull herself out of hole and when you look back, she has always ridden through these crises."

"She's not teetering," U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said on television this week, again underlining the massive public

and private support Washington has given Aquino since the August 28 rebellion almost toppled her administration.

WHO calls for smallpox commitment to rout AIDS

WITH the same energy and commitment with which it eradicated smallpox, the World Health Organisation (WHO) is now committed to the more urgent, complex and difficult task of global AIDS control, according to Dr. Jürgen Mann, director of the WHO Special Programme on AIDS.

In an exclusive report in People, the development magazine published by the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), Dr. Mann said that WHO believed the spread of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) could be stopped, even though a vaccine was not yet available.

AIDS was a health problem of truly global proportions. By the middle of 1987, 118 countries had reported some 52,600 cases of the disease to WHO.

"But we know that this is only the tip of the iceberg since it depicts the epidemiological status of the HIV infection as it existed several years ago," he observed.

A global problem of this magnitude demanded a global response and WHO had a constitutional responsibility to direct and co-ordinate the global struggle against AIDS. It regarded education and control as ultimately, it was, people's responsible behaviour that would stop the spread of the virus.

WHO understood that AIDS control would require a sustained, long-term commitment. The disease had emerged rapidly, but would not be rapidly controlled. Prevention and control required both strong national pro-



AIDS is often called "slim" disease because of victims' severe weight loss (file photo)

grammes and international leadership, co-ordination and co-operation, he added.

The main tasks of the Special Programme on AIDS, he explained, were to support forcefully the development of national AIDS programmes. WHO was already working with more than 50 developing countries, mostly in Africa and Latin America, to help plan and implement such programmes.

Uganda, one of the first countries to develop a five-year plan, had given the highest priority to controlling the AIDS epidemic. In October, 1986, the Ministry of Health had established the National Committee for the Prevention of AIDS and an initial visit by a team of WHO consultants the following January resulted in a short-term plan and immediate assistance.

In February this year, three WHO consultants had helped the Ministry to draft a detailed five-year medium-term plan for AIDS prevention and control. The plan defined the programme's responsibilities, structure, staffing and required resources for 1987-1991.

Continuing, Dr. Mann said that a WHO consultant had been assigned to Uganda starting in late March, 1987 to assist the Ministry in co-ordinating national activities, including external assistance, required to implement the plan. More WHO staff had been identified and recruited to assist with specific tasks.

The overall aim of the AIDS programme was to reduce the incidence of HIV infection and its associated morbidity in Uganda and various objectives had been

for HIV infection and the development and co-ordination of research activities.

The AIDS programme was being supervised by the office of the Minister of Health, while AIDS policy formulation was the responsibility of the National AIDS committee. The programme was being evaluated regularly in collaboration with WHO.

Dr. Mann emphasised that it was important that AIDS control programmes were not developed in isolation. Integration with national primary health care strategies and it was essential that optimal use was made of the existing infrastructure for health development, including the educational systems, communication channels, nongovernmental organisations and the private sector.

An additional role for WHO had emerged in the important field of mobilising resources — and in this connection Uganda had offered valuable experience. In May, 1987, WHO collaborated with the government to conduct a donors' conference to examine the five-year plan and identify donors for necessary external support. The response, he said, was rapid and positive. More than \$6 million had been identified to cover the first year and pledges for additional future resources received. Similar conferences were planned for Tanzania, Rwanda and Ethiopia.

Dr. Mann pointed out that maternal and child health care (MCH) and family planning programmes had a crucial role to play in national AIDS control strategies. HIV was primarily transmitted sexually and heterosexually.

Other objectives, he said, included improving clinical management of AIDS patients, as well as the diagnostic capabilities

of sexual transmission was growing in industrialised countries. Sex education, leading to changes in sexual behaviour was the action that would eventually check the spread of the HIV epidemic.

The target groups for Maternal and Child Health and Family Planning services were the sexually active and those coming forward for advice and services. Such programmes were particularly important for the prevention of transmission from mother to child. The implications both in terms of staff responsibilities and of preparing staff for these tasks were far-reaching.

Even under the best of scenarios, Dr. Mann said, the magnitude of the AIDS pandemic would increase over the next few years. It would also increasingly affect mothers and children. MCH-family planning programmes therefore would become more closely involved in combating the problem. This would have undoubted implications for the services involved and additional resources would be needed. The resulting changes and strengthening, however, would also have other important health benefits, such as a reduction of other sexually transmitted or blood-borne diseases.

Dr. Mann concluded: "Hopefully, the threat posed by, and attention given to AIDS, might have some positive effects in itself. For instance, it could in many situations force a breakthrough for much-needed sex education and for the possibility to prepare young women and men for responsible sexuality."

People.

Randa Habib's Corner

Mobility is the word

SOME departments in Jordan are not publicised enough although their work is vital. I am thinking here particularly of the Civil Defence Department, which has proved its efficiency in the past years.

The department's rapid reaction whenever there was an accident has saved hundreds of lives in recent years. The statistics are clear: While in 1985, with 1,972 accidents, 113 people died; in 1986 the number of accidents was higher, 2,688, but with only 81 deaths. If this department was equipped with mobile care units, that many people called for, the number of deaths in car accidents would have been considerably less.

The Civil Defence Department has established centres along the country's main roads, at 50 kilometres intervals, in order to offer quick services to accident victims. But still, a wounded person in a car accident, say near Rwaishid — along the eastern highway — would have to be driven to the nearest hospital, either in Mafrq or Zarqa, which could be as far as 240 kilometres.

Mobile care units in this case would be ideal. The patient could be treated in the car and receive more medical care than in a simple ambulance.

Finally I wish to point out that because of the Civil Defence, many sick people were able to reach private or public hospitals in time, after failing to alert an ambulance from those hospitals.

Human rights or trade rights?

By Bimal Ghosh

"WE DO not necessarily see that we have an obligation to treat trade from countries that abuse their citizens' rights in the same way as we treat trade from countries that allow their workers the benefit which can result from their export efforts..." Speaking in Geneva on June 17, Mr. William Brock, the U.S. Labour Secretary, was urging the International Labour Conference to take steps linking trade and workers' rights.

Inter-country wage differentials are also a reflection of real differences in national resource endowments. The labour-surplus countries of South and South-East Asia or Latin America should have a legitimate comparative advantage over, for example, Japan or North America in the use of manpower except possibly for industries which are highly skill-intensive.

It is true that in many Third World countries there are clear cases where the absence of workers' basic rights — lack of freedom of association and of the right to organise and bargain collectively, the use of children etc. — is depressing wages and labour conditions. But it is wrong to approach the worker rights issue from this end. Regardless of their effects on wages or competitive position, these abuses must be stopped and rights upheld. This is the essence of the issue.

If raising commercial interests confuses the worker rights issue, the interference of political considerations does nothing for its credibility. Under the 1984 U.S. trade measure — which made workers' rights a consideration in granting preferential trade benefits — the president was given the power to waive actions against worker rights violations and in most cases be used that power.

We must also be conscious of the effectiveness of trade as a lever for changing labour or social policies. Jealous to safeguard their prerogatives in domestic matters, most Third World countries — including those like Singapore, South Korea or Taiwan which depend heavily on their export incomes — are sensitive and suspicious of any such external pressure. The situation becomes worse and may provoke retaliations in various forms if unilateral action is taken in defining unfair labour practices and withholding trade benefits, as envisaged in the U.S. trade Bill.

America's taste for ice cream inspires new boom for vanilla

By Donald J. Frederick
National Geographic

HUNTING VALLEY, Maryland — "Things are humming these days in vanilla corner," says Gregg Hart of McCormick & Co. Inc., a major producer of spices and flavourings.

He points out a bank of seven large, green, stainless-steel tanks along one wall of the company's extract plant. A murky, dark-brown liquid splashes behind the small, porthole-like windows on the front of each tank.

"The tanks function much like home coffee makers," Hart explains. "Not what we have percolating is a mixture of crushed vanilla beans, alcohol, and water that will eventually be transformed into vanilla extract. Our tanks operate most of the year."

Feeding huge appetite

Importers and manufacturers have been working overtime to satisfy America's growing appetite for real vanilla. The chemical structure of the vanilla bean is so complex that not all the components that contribute to its distinct flavour and aroma have yet been identified.

The irresistible flavouring comes from a small, yellowish-green orchid, the only one of thousands of orchid species that produces edible fruit. More than 90 per cent of the world's vanilla comes from Madagascar and the Comoro Islands, in the Indian Ocean, and from Indonesia.

England's Queen Elizabeth I doted on vanilla. Other 17th-century Europeans valued it for more than its taste, using the bean to treat indigestion, headaches, and "anemic and exhausted young women."

Thomas Jefferson is credited with beginning America's love affair with vanilla. He was so taken with its fragrance and flavour that he brought a supply of



vanilla beans from France in 1789, when he returned to Philadelphia, one of the new nation's temporary capitals. The town was soon abuzz with stories of his exotic dessert.

Europeans hoping to capitalise on the vanilla craze smuggled cuttings out of Mexico in the 18th century, but with little success. Despite the best efforts of horticulturists, the orchids stubbornly refused to bear fruit. Dark

rumours of a curse by Moctezuma haunted the plant.

A Belgian botanist, studying the plants in the wild, punctured the myth by observing that the flowers had to be individually pollinated to bear fruit. This was usually accomplished by a small bee found only in Mexico. That country, once an important vanilla exporter, today ships out relatively small quantities of the beans.



More than half the world's vanilla comes from the island of Madagascar. When ripe, the fragrant seed pods are spread out to cure under the hot sun of Antalaha (left). To guard against theft of the valuable plant, some growers prick their initials in the pods (right). Besides Madagascar, the two other chief vanilla-growers are Indonesia and the Comoro Islands.

The real breakthrough occurred in 1841, when a former slave from the French island of Réunion, in the Indian Ocean, perfected a method of hand-pollinating the vanilla-producing orchids. Plantations soon sprang up on Madagascar and other nearby islands.

Hand pollination of thousands of blooms, which open over a two-month period, starts a process that makes vanilla one of the

world's most labour-intensive agricultural products. Curing alone takes three to six months, beginning with a scalding bath, followed by a daily ritual of sunning and "sweating," and then considerable time in a curing shed.

The 4-to-12-inch pods are so valuable in some regions of Madagascar that growers prick their initials in them to thwart their theft by "vanilla rustlers."

These moves come at a time when the new U.S. trade Bill — which contains a provision to curb commerce with countries that don't recognise workers' rights — has reached the final stages of congressional deliberations before its submission to President Reagan.

The current labour protests sweeping South Korea have kindled new emotions about workers' rights in the context of trade.

The New York-based International League for Human Rights and some trade unions have urged the U.S. government to remind South Korea and its other trading partners that they must comply with internationally recognised labour rights.

Are these genuine concerns for human and workers' rights? Or, are they a disguised attempt at protecting jobs and markets? Or a mixture of both? These doubts are not confined to Third World countries. A number of Washington legislators see the workers' rights provision in the new trade Bill as "protectionism in the guise of humanitarianism."

Protecting workers' rights is hardly a debatable issue. But the

Forbes, Fortune differ over list of the richest

By Peter Coy
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Who is the world's richest person? It depends on which business magazine you read.

Fortune and Forbes, two American business biweeklies, are squaring off with rival lists of the world's billionaires that bear little resemblance to each other.

Forbes claims the world's richest person is Yoshiaki Tsutsumi, a Japanese landlord who it says is worth \$20 billion.

Fortune gives top honours to the "free-spending sultan of oil," Sultan Muhammed Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah of Brunei, who it says is worth \$25 billion.

The magazines can't even agree on who has bragging rights in the business of naming billionaires.

Fortune says Forbes rushed its list into print this week to beat Fortune to the newsstand by a week. Forbes admits it, but notes that it has been printing its own list of the 400 richest Americans since 1982.

Fortune got in the first punches when it heard of the Forbes list and issued a press release Saturday, promoting its Oct. 12 cover story. Forbes' news release on its Oct. 5 cover story came out a day later.

Calculating the wealth of billionaires seems to be more art

than science, judging from the discrepancies between the two magazines' calculations. Forbes' list is heavy with Japanese, while Fortune's is strong on Arab royalty and North Americans.

Tsutsumi, No. 1 on the Forbes list, is the 53-year-old head of Seibu railway group, Japan's biggest and richest landlord. The empire consists of railways, more than 30 hotels, about 25 golf courses, ski resorts and other land.

Forbes, however, gives Tsutsumi credit for just \$2.5 billion. Its own No. 1, the 41-year-old Sultan of Brunei, owns practically everything in the country of Brunei on the island of Borneo.

Forbes' cover story includes only foreign billionaires, but the magazine issued a news release Monday with the names of the top 49 Americans on its annual Forbes 400 list, which will be in its Oct. 26 issue.

Only three individuals or families make the top 10 on both magazines' lists of combined U.S. and foreign billionaires: Albert, Paul and Ralph Reichmann, Canadian real estate, newsprint and magnates; Kenneth Roy Thomson, a Canadian with interests in news media and real estate; and Sam Moore Walton, the discount retailing king from Bentonville, Arkansas.

Here's Fortune magazine's list of the top 10 on both magazines' lists of combined U.S. and foreign billionaires:

— Eitaro Itohama, property
— Konosuke Matsushita, electronics
— Seijiro Matsukata, trading,
— Yoneichi Otani, hotels
— Keizo Saji, liquor distributor
— Rinji Shino, real estate
— Tsai Wan-Lin, insurance, construction
— Y.C. Wang, plastics
— Saudi Arabia
— Al Rajhi family, money changing
— Germany
— Karl Friedrich Flick, finance
— Henkel family, consumer products
— Reinhard Mohn, publishing
— Rudolph August Oetker and family, food, brewing
— Quandt family, autos, industry
— Wilhelm and August Jr. von Finck, real estate, banking
— Von Oppenheim family, banking
— Prince Jobannes von Thurn and Taxis, land investments
— United Kingdom
— Gerald Cavendish Grosvenor, property
— Italy
— Giovanni Agnelli, autos
— Switzerland
— Thomas and Stephen Schmidheiny, industry
— France
— Schlumberger Family, oil services
— Colombia
— Pablo Escobar Gaviria, cocaine
— Seijo Brothers, cocaine

real estate.
— Yoneichi Otani, hotels
— Keizo Saji, liquor distributor
— Rinji Shino, real estate
— Tsai Wan-Lin, insurance, construction
— Y.C. Wang, plastics
— Saudi Arabia
— Al Rajhi family, money changing
— Germany
— Karl Friedrich Flick, finance
— Henkel family, consumer products
— Reinhard Mohn, publishing
— Rudolph August Oetker and family, food, brewing
— Quandt family, autos, industry
— Wilhelm and August Jr. von Finck, real estate, banking
— Von Oppenheim family, banking
— Prince Jobannes von Thurn and Taxis, land investments
— United Kingdom
— Gerald Cavendish Grosvenor, property
— Italy
— Giovanni Agnelli, autos
— Switzerland
— Thomas and Stephen Schmidheiny, industry
— France
— Schlumberger Family, oil services
— Colombia
— Pablo Escobar Gaviria, cocaine
— Seijo Brothers, cocaine

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Mediterranean Games

Arabs win most golds in boxing events

Moutawakel considering retirement

LATAKIA, Syria (Agencies) — Arab and Yugoslav boxers won all 12 finals in the Mediterranean Games on Tuesday, the most exciting day so far of the lacklustre two-week sports festival.

Syrian boxers won three gold medals to the delight of a capacity crowd screaming "Syria, Syria." Fans, waving huge national flags, invaded the floor around the ring to applaud their heroes, Mohammed Hadad, Hamed Habouni and Mayez Khanji.

Syria's boxing honours brought to eight its gold medal tally and took it to sixth place in the medals table, ahead of all other Arab countries competing in the games.

Morocco's Handasi Radwan and Asheq Abdul-Haq won their bouts, while Algeria took two boxing golds and Tunisia one.

Yugoslav boxers lifted four boxing titles to raise to 13 their country's gold medal tally.

In the Syrian capital Damascus, life came to a virtual standstill when the home soccer team held Greece a 1-1 draw after extra time in a semi-final tie in Aleppo.

The Syrians qualified for Thursday's final when they won the penalty shootout 3-2, thanks to two heroic saves by goalkeeper Ahmed Eid.

In the other semi-final, played in Latakia, France edged past Turkey 1-0 to qualify for the final.

The eight-nation soccer tournament has been a low key affair due to the absence of the Italians, Yugoslavs and Egyptians.

The French, by far the most impressive side, are mainly drawn from second division clubs.

In a surprise announcement, Olympic hurdles champion Nawal El Moutawakel said she is "tired and low-spirited" and may retire rather than let down the Moroccan people, a Syrian newspaper reported Wednesday.

"At the beginning, the 400 metre hurdles were easy for me. Now they seem like mountains."

victory was a shock. She underwent knee surgery in 1985 and again in 1986, then my trainer died in a plane crash.

"I stopped sports because his loss was very difficult for me," she added.

"I am not ready psychologically... therefore I have decided and thought of retiring, because the Moroccan people have hopes in me and I can't fulfill them, and I would be very sad if I let them down," she added.

El-Moutawakel, now a university student, said she has "exams coming up... I will devote the rest of the year to my studies."

She burst into fame at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles with a surprise gold medal in the 400-metre hurdles in a time of 54.61 seconds.

"At L.A. I was an ordinary person, and went into the race with ordinary feelings. I got the gold medal, every sportsperson's dream, but I was blank. The

"I am thinking of retiring after the Mediterranean Games," she said. "There is another (Moroccan) champion now who can replace me, Fatima Aowam. She was a world champion in the two mile race, and I expect her to win at the Olympics."

tract to fight Tyson last May 30 which they walked away from," Jacobs added, referring to the bout planned for the two as part of promoter Don King's heavyweight Unification Series.

"We went to court and tried to force Spinks to fight Tyson but were unsuccessful. Now Mike (Tyson) has commitments for at least a year ahead and we are going to honour them."

Jacobs told Reuters he would ignore the offer made 24 hours earlier by Spinks' manager and promoter Butch Lewis for the unbeaten 21-year-old Tyson to defend all three of his world titles against Spinks next May.

"It's complete nonsense," said Jacobs. "I'm not going to respond to it. I'm just going to forget about it."

"Spinks and Lewis had a con-

Johnson, Fuwa win easily

TOKYO (AP) — Hiroki Fuwa set a Japanese record of 10.33 seconds in the 100-metre dash Wednesday, but couldn't beat world champion Ben Johnson of Canada in a one-day international track and field meet before 53,000 spectators.

Johnson's 10.29 was well below his world record of 9.83, but he told reporters, "I think it's not a bad time in my hard schedule. This meet is the seventh since the world championship in Rome in August and the 46th race since January this year. So I am a bit tired."

Fuwa's time broke a 20-year-old Japan record of 10.34 set by Hideo Iijima.

World record holder Sergei Bubka of the Soviet Union won the pole vault, clearing 5.90 metres on his first try in Tokyo's National Stadium, site of the 1964 Olympics.

Trying to break his world mark of 6.03 metres the 23-year-old Bubka failed in three tries at 6.05 metres (19 feet, 10 1/4 inches).

Poland's Marian Kolasa was second with 5.60 metres.

Bubka said, "since the world championships, I have had no time to practice but I was in top shape in Rome so I thought I could continue to do better here but failed."

Brian Diemer of the United States started in the last 300 metres and won the men's 3,000-metre steeplechase, edging Joshua Kipkemboi of Kenya, who led most of the race.

Both players held serve easily after that until the eighth game when the Swede broke Flur as the American missed a backhand.

Edberg served out the set 6-3 and after that was in full control, winning the second set easily by 6-2. Edberg, who served and volleyed with conviction, took the



Stefan Edberg

Edberg beats Flur

LOS ANGELES (R) — Top-seeded Stefan Edberg easily advanced to the second round of the \$315,000 Los Angeles Grand Prix tennis tournament on Tuesday with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over American qualifier Marc Flur.

Second-seeded American Brad Gilbert also advanced with a 6-2, 6-3 win over his unseeded countryman Todd Witsken.

But fourth seed Scott Davis of the United States was upset by unheralded South African Gary Muller 7-6, 6-2.

Edberg began sluggishly against Flur, a player he had never faced and struggled to hold his opening service game.

Both players held serve easily after that until the eighth game when the Swede broke Flur as the American missed a backhand.

Edberg served out the set 6-3 and after that was in full control, winning the second set easily by 6-2. Edberg, who served and volleyed with conviction, took the

match on a backhand return error by Flur.

"It's always hard to play after a Grand Slam tournament," said Edberg, who was beaten by compatriot Mats Wilander in the semi-finals of the U.S. Open.

"It's harder to get pumped up," Edberg said. "It took a couple of games to get into it and then it was alright."

Muller, ranked 64, used his big left-handed serve to outplay an off-form Davis, ranked 20, and easily dominated his opponent after winning the first set in a clear-cut tiebreaker by seven points to one.

Michael Chang, the American who at 15 became the youngest player to win a round at the U.S. Open two weeks ago, could not repeat that feat in Los Angeles on Tuesday.

Chang was beaten by third seeded American, David Pate, 6-3, 7-6.

Penalty saves Everton

LONDON (R) — A controversial 87th minute Wayne Clarke penalty saved the blushes of English champions Everton after a battling League Cup performance by lowly Rotherham.

Rotherham, 19th in Division Three, twice hit back from behind in the second round first leg tie.

"There seemed little danger as Everton's midfielder Trevor Steven chased a Graeme sharp pass to the byline under challenge from Rotherham keeper Kelham O'Hanlon. But Steven fell and referee Gerald Ashby pointed straight to the spot for Clarke to step up gratefully to score."

Everton opened the scoring through a curling low drive from Ian Snodin after 18 minutes. Four minutes later left-back Martin Scott drove home a stunning 20 metre free kick off the underside of the crossbar.

Everton restored their lead through new signing Ian Wilson, after 51 minutes. But tenacious Rotherham were back on terms after 77 minutes, when Nigel Pepper soared to head Daryl Pugh.

Portsmouth, newly promoted to the first division, next down 3-1 at second division Swindon Derby, also new to the First Division, lost 1-0 at Third Division Southend and Bournemouth of the Second Division beat Southampton of the first 1-0 at home.

Once proud Wolverhampton, now in the Fourth Division, had something to cheer, winning 2-1 at second division Manchester City. Another Fourth Division side, Rochdale, drew 1-1 at home to Wimbledon of the first in Spain Spanish radio and

television report said Barcelona coach Terry Venables, blamed for his club's disastrous start to the Spanish League season, was likely to be sacked on Wednesday, but a club spokesman said a decision would not be announced until later.

"It will not be official until after an executive board meeting," he told Reuters.

Venables, 44, discussed the club's crisis with executives on Wednesday. The board was to meet later and hold a news conference at 1830 GMT.

The arrival in Barcelona of former Atletico Madrid coach Luis Aragonés, regarded as a possible successor to Venables, fuelled speculation that the English coach would not complete his fourth season with the Catalans.

Club President Jose Luis Nunez told reporters on Tuesday Venables was unable to train Barcelona, who have lost three of their first four league games.

"A coach, in two years, goes from being the best to being useless... this happened not only with Venables, but with all the club's coaches," he said.

Eriksson leads Ivory Coast rally

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) — World Champion Kenneth Eriksson took the lead over Bjorn Waldegaard after a rain-soaked first leg of the Ivory Coast Safari Rally.

Only 29 of the 43 starters arrived in Yamoussoukro, the halfway point of the 1249.24 kilometre first leg, Kenyan Shekhar Mehta and Mike Kirkland finished the leg in third and fourth positions respectively. Fifth place is held by West German Erwin Weber.

The event was marred by the deaths of Toyota assistant team manager Henry Liddon and three other men, killed early Wednesday when their light plane crashed on takeoff from Yamoussouro.

Rally organisers said the cause of the crash was not known, nor whether heavy seasonal tropical rain storms contributed.

The 1,396.22 kilometre second leg was slated to get under way at 7 p.m. (1900 GMT) Wednesday.

SECRETARY REQUIRED

A Jordanian tourism co. has a vacancy for a part-time female secretary (8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.) with following requirements:

— Good command of the English language.
— Excellent typing capability in the English language with min. 2 years experience.
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FRIDAY'S RACES AT THE ROYAL RACING CLUB-TUNEIB

FIRST RACE 3.30 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1400 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1. Farhan Faith Oudih	El Bane	Owner	56	
2. Ibrahim Mohammad Maray	R. Moni	Owner	56	
3. Talib El Nahai	Ghazalii	Owner	A. Amraah	54.5
4. Abdulla Hussein	Ibisam	Owner	Fawaz	54.5
5. Shakti Farhan	A. Nael	Owner	Mahmoud	54.5
6. Khalid Yousef Rwaideh	Ahmedy	Owner	Mwalaik	53
7. Thamer Hazzeh El Hadeed	Laly	Owner	Yousef	50
8. Saleh Moazy Adwan	S. El Ghor	Owner	Yousef	50
9. Samir Khalil Haddadin	Dhaway	Owner	A. Jaber	50
10. Saif Chazy A. Jabi	M. Sait	Owner	George	50
11. Alia Mazzi Abbadi	Rihanah	Owner	Rashed	48.5
12. A. El Hafiz Awad	Hamidah	Owner	Samy	48.5
13. Saiman Hisham Nabulsi	M. Salman	Owner	George	48.5
14. Hisham Mohammad	K. Bassam	Owner	Ahmad	48.5
15. Ziad T. Rahhal	Smari	Owner	Yousef	50

SECOND RACE 4.00 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1. Aly Fareed El Saad	J. El Saad	Khair Eldin Rasheed	58	
2. Aly Fareed El Saad	Saad Aly	Khair Eldin Yousel	50	
3. Faisal Awad El Faiez	Nasim	Owner	George	54.5
4. Nimir El Hmoud	Sahay	Mahmoud	Mahmoud	51.5
5. Nimir El Hmoud	Borkan	Mahmoud	Mahmoud	50
6. Nimir El Hmoud	B. Rababdan	Mahmoud	A Jagheef	48.5
7. Fawaz Anwar Shalan	Ahmad	Mohsen	Kasim	50
8. Naser Anwar Shalan	Ishbi	Mohsen	Edd	50
9. Maysam Ibrahim Bisbarat	Mashhour	Khair	Eldin	50
10. Najla Wasit Bisbarat	M. Dina	Khair	Eldin	48.5
11. Ibrahim Hany				

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following were the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.6345/55	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3180/90	Canadian dollar
	1.8275/85	West German marks
	2.0565/75	Dutch guilders
	1.5145/55	Swiss francs
	37.90/93	Belgian francs
	6.0875/025	French francs
	131.91/1320	Italian lira
	144.35/45	Japanese yen
	6.4100/50	Swedish crowns
	6.6775/6825	Norwegian crowns
	7.0200/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	460.50/461.00	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices here retreated from their mid-session highs in quiet afternoon business as Wall Street's opening gains on Wednesday gave way to mixed, undecided trading.

Dealers said Tuesday's record points advance on Wall Street sent the FTSE 100 index up 20.7 at 2,356.9 just after the 0800 GMT official opening. But lack of follow-through left the index only 11.2 points higher at 2,347.4 by 1408 GMT, its lowest level on the day.

Oil shares were higher, reflecting the heavy overspill from the advance in the shares on Wall Street. Dealers noted other shares with U.S. address quotations also moved ahead.

Late afternoon trading was closely linked to developments on Wall Street with the FTSE 100 index tracking the Dow Jones industrial average almost step for step, dealers said.

By 1427 GMT the FTSE was up 14.6 at 2,350.8.

Fundamentals underlying the U.K. market remain strong, dealers said, with the recent spate of encouraging economic data giving participants' hopes of another sharp rally before the year end.

Some analysts are forecasting that the FTSE 100 index could push through 2,500 points by the end of the year as investors buy on the prospect of good returns in a stable U.K. economy.

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1987

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Fletcher Institute.

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You will have an opportunity to contact some very interesting and unusual people who can give you some clever ideas. Cooperate with others more effectively today, but don't degrade yourself.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Prestige can be gained by doing some volunteer community work. Great business contacts can be made in this way as well.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Plan your activities more wisely and get better results. Be more cooperative with a co-worker and you will succeed.

gemini (May 21 to June 21) Try to be more modest in your thinking and your appearance. Get in touch with some friends and plan a new arrangement for the weekend.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Get your home in shape and add more color and art to it. Entertain at home tonight and dress nicely, but not elaborately.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) A group project will go along smoothly. Spend the evening with someone you have much in common.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Set up a budget which will allow you a little more entertainment, but don't neglect any important bills. Drive carefully this evening.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Keep a healthy perspective about going after your goals — don't rob Peter to pay Paul. Keep a reign on your emotions and your temper.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Privately work out a plan which can bring you rapid advancement, with some hard work. Show more affection for your loved ones.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) End the aid of close friends to work out a difficult problem. Be more understanding of others and things will go smoothly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) If you display your abilities, you'll have more opportunities to capitalize on them. Have more confidence in yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) If you want a new friend to go along with you, it is important to introduce them in detail. A short trip can bring you many benefits.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) If you show a little energy and enthusiasm about life, your mate will appreciate it. A short talk with an important person would be good.

If Your Child Is Born Today

He or she will be adept at handling career matters which require precision, a neat touch, and the ability to finish a project once it's started. Your progeny will get along well with others, and he or she should choose a career which involves interaction with large groups. A happy love life is indicated, so teach principles.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

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Head of European Parliament pushes new farming policies

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States and Europe can no longer get rid of farm surpluses by shipping them to the Third World, the president of the European Parliament said Wednesday.

"And good riddance to it — no countries will ever develop properly that way..." Lord Plumb said in a speech to the Commodity Club, a business organisation.

"In the minds of many people surpluses and shortages are directly linked and there is widespread simplistic belief that surpluses can simply be 'shipped south' to solve the problems of bunger and malnutrition. The complexities of the real situation need to be explored and publicised," he added.

He said it should be more widely known that Third World governments tax their farmers too much and offer prices too low to encourage them to produce. High taxes and low prices have caused increased dependence on imported food, he added.

The United States and the Europeans would be foolish to try to solve their farm trade problems without making it a priority to protect the Third World farmer, he said.

Lord Plumb suggested that the farm situation in the United States and Western Europe is so similar that the common element could guarantee solution of their problems.

He noted that both Europe and America support their farmers by a system based on prices so high that they have over-stimulated supply while demand has remained stagnant or even fallen.

Both systems have hit budgets badly and benefitted larger farms more than smaller ones, he said, but despite these apparently favourable policies farm communities are in severe decline on both continents.

"We are losing touch with our countryside and our common rural heritage," he added.

Meanwhile, ministers from key European Community (EC) farming states on Tuesday de-

'Unscrupulous practices still continuing in Philippines'

MANILA (AP) — President Corazon Aquino's former aide said Wednesday that private firms conspired with the ousted administration to deceive the International Monetary Fund and that unscrupulous practices were continuing.

Mr. Arroyo said some people who benefited from such loans "are now going around like respectable citizens and they still want to wield economic power." He gave no names.

Mr. Arroyo, who resigned this month as Mrs. Aquino's executive secretary, also said that bad government loans to private companies under former president Ferdinand Marcos had cost the country billions of dollars.

Some people involved in unethical practices are trying to influence the Aquino administration's economic policy, he said.

Mr. Arroyo presented documents alleging that the state-run Philippine National Oil Co., the central bank and Citibank were involved in deals to mislead IMF auditors and inflate the country's foreign currency holdings by up to \$600 million.

manded major changes in plans to stop the growth in EC agricultural spending.

However, diplomatic sources said all 12 ministers recognised that with a budget deficit of \$7 billion forecast for next year, new curbs were necessary to bring the cost of farmers' subsidies under control.

The Community has been driven to the brink of bankruptcy by guaranteeing its farmers prices well above world levels, no matter how much they produce.

So the EC's executive commission has proposed setting production limits for major crops and telling farmers that they would be penalised with lower prices if they grew too much.

Diplomats said that at Tuesday's meeting in Brussels, the West German, French and Irish ministers rejected the idea of changing guaranteed prices in the middle of a season.

"The farmer must know what is going to happen during the crop year," Minister Michael O'Keefe was quoted saying by Irish sources.

Diplomats said Belgian and Luxembourg ministers also expressed concern that the commission, in pursuing spending cuts, was not paying sufficient attention to a need to maintain farmers' incomes.

They quoted Belgian Minister Paul De Keersmaecker as saying that the commission's cutting plan, British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe, but the diplomats said some other members of the coalition, including West Germany, Japan, China and Italy, seemed hesitant to support it.

But one Gulf-based diplomat

Oil embargo may hurt Iran more

BAHRAIN (R) — An arms embargo against Iran would have little more than symbolic value and a boycott of Iranian oil might be the only effective way to stall Tehran's war machine, Gulf-based diplomats said on Wednesday.

As the United States began to rally international support for an arms embargo, the diplomats said it would be almost impossible to stop weapons reaching Tehran.

"An arms embargo cannot be watertight ... it will be a symbolic gesture and, frankly, will Iran care?" said one senior Western diplomat.

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said: "I am afraid the idea hasn't been thought through. In theory it is straightforward, but the practicalities will not work."

A U.N. embargo on military sales to South Africa has been in force for 10 years but to little effect, diplomats said.

An uncompromising speech to the U.N. General Assembly in New York on Tuesday by Iranian President Ali Khamenei gave no clear indication that Tehran would accept the Security Council's July 20 order for a ceasefire.

Mr. Shultz's call for an arms embargo was backed by British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe, but the diplomats said some other members of the coalition, including West Germany, Japan, China and Italy, seemed hesitant to support it.

Backing for an oil embargo would also be difficult to secure but diplomats said Iran's weak link, as Iraq's military strategy had already proved, was its almost total dependence on oil to fund the war.

Since U.S. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar ended a

Gulf war peace mission a week ago, Iraqi jets have bombed Iran's oil terminal at Kharg Island and its tankers.

Iraqi officials have made it clear there can be no question of negotiating on the U.N. resolution if Iran is playing for time while exporting oil worth \$25 million everyday.

"Nobody is pretending an oil embargo would be easy to enforce ... but it would at least hit Iran where it hurts," said one Gulf-based oil company executive.

Iraq succeeded in cutting Iran's oil export to a trickle for about a month last year, but the rate has recovered in more than two million barrels a day despite Baghdad's attacks.

The diplomats argued that the most punishing sanction against Iran would be to persuade nations and companies not to buy Tehran's crude.

Much of its production is sold to traders who then resell it to the highest bidder on world markets, but large quantities also go to Japan, Eastern Bloc countries and Third World nations.

One problem is that some Iranian oil is also pledged in barter deals which would be legally difficult to unscramble.

The mechanics of an arms embargo would probably rely on nations refusing to grant export

licences for deals with Iran plus, one diplomat said, "a large dose of moral suasion."

But there are many ways for Iran to skirt restrictions:

— Through the black market. Diplomats said Iran had been paying sometimes double the face value for weapons but an arms embargo would be unlikely to increase the cost still further.

— Iran's vast land borders and large coastline make arms smuggling easy. Military sources said it would be impractical for a U.N. force to check the hundreds of cargo ships and fishing boats plying the Gulf for weapons destined for Iran. On land, some U.S. weapons originally supplied to Afghan Mujahedin rebels are believed to have been resold to Teheran and brought in across the border.

— Iraq is thought to have bought more than \$10 billion of weapons since the start of the war in 1980 from North and South Korea, China, Vietnam, Israel and Syria, with purchases often disguised through a third party.

— With its talents for improvisation, Iran now makes its own bullets, mortars and land and sea mines. It claims to have manufactured missiles which Western military sources say are versions of the Soviet surface-to-surface Scud-B.

They said that could mean the Soviet Union will boost its exports. It relies on petroleum sales to the West for around 60 per cent of bard currency earnings, and low oil prices and a weak dollar have played havoc with its foreign trade balance.

Average 1987 oil output is forecast at 12.45 million barrels daily, up from 12.3 million last year.

The U.S. Agriculture Department's latest estimate for the 1987 Soviet grain crop is 205 million tonnes, well short of the 232 million tonnes target set by the Kremlin to its bid to free the country from the need for hard-currency grain imports.

Oil output likely to reach record levels

Meanwhile, oil output by the Soviet Union, the world's largest producer, is likely to reach record levels this year if current trends continue, market experts said Tuesday.

A report by Petroleum Economics Ltd (PEL) said crude output in the first half of 1987 averaged 12.55 million barrels daily.

The Soviet State Statistics Committee said on Sept. 12 that production was two per cent above the same period in 1986.

A report by Petroleum Economics Ltd (PEL) said crude output in the first half of 1987 averaged 12.55 million barrels daily.

Mr. Giuseppe Tramontana, managing director of Alfa Romeo, said massive investments over the next five years to modernise and improve its productivity and strengthen its distribution abroad, also announced that its 1987 sales are expected to reach 203,000, up from 185,000 a year earlier.

Sales of Alfa, formerly a state-controlled company, will amount to 3 trillion lire (\$2.3 billion) this

year, a 12 per cent increase from 1986. Sales on the European market accounted for 35.5 per cent of the total.

Alfa Romeo, for whose control Fiat challenged and defeated a bid by the U.S. Ford Motor Corp., estimated its 1987 sales on the American market at 7,100.

Alfa Romeo was taken over by the Fiat group last year and merged into Fiat operations in January.

The four and six-cylinder, turbocharged sedan will go on sale in Italy next month and will be marketed in Europe and the United States by June 1988.

Mr. Ghidella said the 164, available in four different versions with a capacity between 1.9-cc to 2.9-cc, will cost between 30 million to 45 million lire (\$23,500 to \$34,600).

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The latest known loss of Alfa Romeo was 200 billion lire (\$1.53 million) in 1985.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

